

Fall

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MONO



LAKE

NEWSLETTER

Restoration decision news

Mono Lake Gift Catalog

Mono Lake Newsletter

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COMMITTEE**

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he fall issue of the *Mono Lake Newsletter* traditionally features the Mono Lake Gift Catalog; thanks to the photography and layout work of intern Arya Degenhardt, this issue is no exception. She's put together the top selections from the bookstore on pages 13-21 (all profits support the Committee's work, of course).

Autumn is almost here, and our cover photo captures last October's blazing colors on the Parker Bench. The leaves will soon be changing, ushering in the magical time in the Eastern Sierra between the summer bugs and the winter winds. Join us here if you can.

A lot has happened in the world of Mono Lake policy over the summer—read all about it, particularly the Water Board's decision on restoration, on pages 5-8.

On pages 3-4 Dave Shuford writes about waterbird migration, adding his voice to our occasional series of scientific perspectives on Mono Lake's larger role in the West. It's a feature we hope to continue in upcoming issues.

And among the many events of the Mono Basin, I must take time to mention a special one of my own: An unrepeatable moment at the shores of Mono Lake, under the white clouds of a summer sky, as my new and wonderful wife Sarah Taylor joined me in marriage.

—Geoff McQuilkin



Photo by Arya Degenhardt

Tracking the rising lake:

DWP employees install a new lake level gauge at Mono's shore.

Mono Lake Committee Mission

The Mono Lake Committee is a non-profit citizens' group dedicated to protecting and restoring the Mono Basin ecosystem, educating the public about Mono Lake and the impacts of excessive water use, and promoting cooperative solutions that protect Mono Lake and meet real water needs without transferring environmental problems to other areas.

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A look at Mono Lake in the bigger picture

Wetland travel advisory

by Dave Shuford



Photo by Don Banta

An advisory for waterbirds traversing the interior of western North America on migration might read: "Wetlands few and far between, intervening terrain inhospitable, conditions variable (enquire locally), and future availability questionable if current trends continue."

Declining wetlands

Even in presettlement days, the arid western climate yielded few wetland oases, mostly in the valleys and basins at the foot of lofty mountain ranges. Although the West still harbors wetlands of astounding productivity—Great Salt Lake, Mono Lake, the Salton Sea—since the 19th century the overall pattern has been one of decline and degradation as attested to by California's loss of over 90 percent of its historic wetlands. These wildlife meccas have receded in the wake of our culture's seemingly unquenchable thirst for water to fuel its growth and development, compounded by our limited compassion for the other forms of life with which we share the planet.

Migration at its best is risky business and now birds' options are further constrained not only by habitat loss but also by contamination or impoverishment of prey populations at remaining wetlands.

In the course of the battle to save Mono Lake, some argued that if water diversions lead to loss of bird populations at the lake then these individuals could go elsewhere. The reality is that many former elsewheres are now nowheres. Water diversions for agriculture and municipal use have destroyed such key wetlands as Owens Lake south of Mono and Tulare Lake in the southern San Joaquin Valley; the latter formerly was the largest wetland system west of the Mississippi River. Others, such as the Klamath Basin marshes on the California-Oregon border or those in the Lahontan Valley of Nevada, have been greatly reduced in size as have their bird populations.

By contrast, the Salton Sea, formed in the early 1900s by diversions run amuck that left a vast inland sea where none had existed in recent times, acts as *de facto* mitigation for habitat loss in the Rio Colorado Delta in Mexico and elsewhere as described above. Unfortunately, recent large bird die-offs at the Sea—150,000 Eared Grebes and 10-15 percent of the western American White Pelican population—may be linked to habitat degradation from increasing salinity and contaminants from agricultural and urban sources.

Adaptability helps

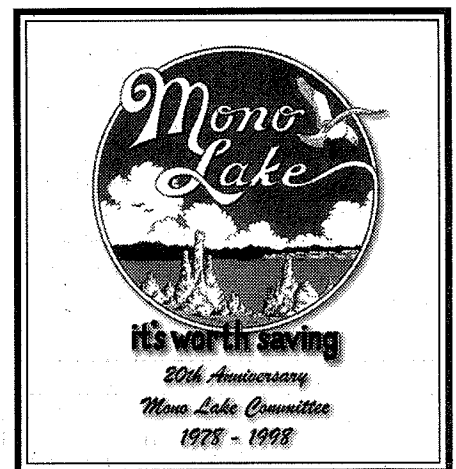
So, given this sobering assessment, what are birds to do? The journeys they undertake and the uncertainties they face are not trivial. Fortunately, many species have adopted a semi-nomadic lifestyle to seek out suitable conditions as wetlands shrink and swell during periods of drought and flood.

During surveys of inland-breeding seabirds this summer, I was amazed at the thousands of breeding grebes, cormorants, ibis, ducks, shorebirds, and terns that had colonized the El Niño-flooded agricultural habitats of the Tulare Basin in the San Joaquin Valley. Where did these individuals breed last year and where would they go when this habitat shrinks as it inevitably will? Still, there is a limit to the adaptability of waterbirds, particularly as the pattern under human influence has been one of rapid unidirectional loss of wetlands rather than the unending natural cycle of diminishment followed by replenishment.

More knowledge needed

Hence, a question more to the point is: what can humans do to enhance birds' chances for safe passage on inherently risky annual journeys? First, we must

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assemble the facts. In the case of Owens and Tulare lakes, we will never really know what was lost as few ornithologists reported on visits to these areas and almost no quantitative data are available on bird use of these wetlands. This also was true of Mono Lake until concern about the lake's declining level prompted researchers, initially students from U.C. Davis and Stanford, to initiate studies about the lake's birdlife and ecology. Current efforts to save the Salton Sea are similarly hampered by a paucity of biological data.

This is not to say that protection and restoration cannot begin until all the facts are in, as they never are, but that the success of such efforts will be greatly enhanced by in-depth knowledge of the functioning of the systems in question. What species use various wetlands? What are their population sizes, their patterns of seasonal use, their food sources? What are other factors they depend on?

We also have to take a much broader view of each species' requirements, as it may do little to protect Eared Grebe populations at Mono Lake if their habitat is not protected elsewhere and tens of thousands die at the Salton Sea. Knowledge of how species vary in their needs is also important, as protecting or enhancing a certain number of reserves, depending on the type, may benefit some species while leaving others at risk.

Whereas alkali lakes like Mono may be crucial for species such as the Eared Grebe, Wilson's Phalarope, and California Gull, freshwater or brackish wetlands or irrigated agricultural fields are vital for species like the American White Pelican, White-faced Ibis, and Black Tern. Gaining even basic knowledge of a species' distribution, key breeding areas, and habitat use may be enough for conservation purposes depending on whether the species currently is found to have healthy population levels and to be concentrated in protected habitats.

My surveys of inland-breeding sea-

birds in 1997 and 1998 found all of California's White Pelicans and 95 percent of the Double-crested Cormorants in the northeastern portion of the state nesting on wildlife refuges, whereas less than 1 percent of the state's Black Terns were breeding on refuges or private reserves. Although the Black Tern was more widely distributed than the other two species, its populations currently are given minimal protection.

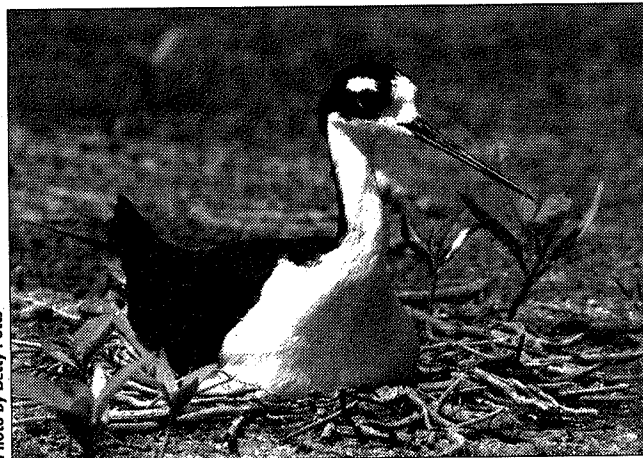


Photo by Betty Potts

Wetland habitat is critical for birds such as this black-necked stilt.

Understanding the habitat range

It is also essential to understand the range of habitats each species needs, as these may vary greatly both seasonally and geographically. For example, western populations of the Black Tern breed in shallow emergent marshes or rice fields (in California), stage in fall migration at freshwater or brackish wetlands (e.g., Tule Lake, Malheur Lake, and the Salton Sea), and winter largely in nearshore ocean waters off Central America and northern South America. Given that many species are not limited by political or terrestrial-oceanic boundaries, the mechanisms needed to protect or restore their habitats must not be so limited either.


Some obvious and not so obvious principles of conservation biology apply to restoration efforts for various species and species groups. Providing more wetland habitat is better, and a diversity of habitats is better yet. Habitat diversity almost always translates into greater species

richness at both the local and regional level. Similarly, biologists have demonstrated a positive relationship between the size of a wetland and the number of species it will hold, i.e., larger wetlands hold more species. Not only is wetland size important, but so is the distribution of wetlands within the broader landscape. Black Terns, for example, tend to use small wetlands to a greater extent when these are in landscapes with high wetland densities and a mixture of both large and small wetlands.

What we can do at Mono

At Mono Lake, it would be desirable to restore as much wetland as possible, of a diversity of types—freshwater creek deltas and riparian habitat, freshwater ponds, freshwater and alkali marshes, etc. Exactly which wetlands are restored and where will depend on a combination of physical constraints, water availability, and philosophical and political considerations at the local and regional level.

Whatever these may be, let us hope that the plans will result in the most natural healthy ecosystem possible, that management will be flexible enough to make adaptive changes as new data from monitoring are gathered, and that, like the legal precedents at Mono Lake which will influence water law and wetland protection for years to come, the efforts at the lake will serve as a model for restoration both locally and nationally.

Dave Shuford has been a staff biologist at Point Reyes Bird Observatory for over 20 years. He first visited Mono Lake in 1972 with David Gaines and has been conducting research on California Gulls at the lake since 1983. Dave's other research interests include patterns of shorebird use in the Pacific Flyway, conservation of inland breeding seabirds in California, and the status and distribution of birds in California. By virtue of his research and his name, he is among the famous Daves of Mono Lake. 

Looking to the future

The Mono Lake Committee mission statement begins with our dedication to protecting and restoring the Mono Basin ecosystem. The mission steers the work of the Mono Lake Committee staff, and we are grateful to have the guidance.

(As always, the complete mission statement, including education and cooperative solution goals, can be found on the inside cover of this newsletter.)

Until 1994, most of the protection activities of the Committee focused on using law, science, and political pressure to win protection for Mono Lake and Mono Basin streams and wetlands. After the landmark Water Board decision in 1994, that focus moved to devising a restoration plan that would be approved by the Water Board.

The Water Board has now released its draft order regarding the restoration of Mono's streams and waterfowl habitat. When this order is finalized, we will celebrate another milestone.

Then, for the decades ahead, the Committee's protection and restoration focus will be on two things: implementing the restoration plan, which will require testing, monitoring, and adjustments along the way; and on ensuring that California's water policies vigorously promote water conservation, water recycling, and groundwater management.

We, as staff of the Mono Lake Committee, and you, as members, can expect to be challenged, inspired, and humbled by these ongoing tasks. Protection and restoration of the Mono Basin ecosystem remain at the top of Mono Lake's needs, making our mission as relevant today as it was when we began in 1978.

A decision—finally—on restoration

by Heidi Hopkins

On July 16, the State Water Resources Control Board issued its draft order regarding DWP's Mono Basin Restoration Plans. A hearing for final comments will take place September 2, and we expect the plans to be finally approved by October.

These restoration plans will form the blueprint for restoration and monitoring activities over the next ten to twenty years, and they will shape the recovery of the Mono Basin for many years beyond that.

As this issue of the *Mono Lake Newsletter* goes to press, we have just begun to analyze the Board's order in detail. In general, many aspects of the order are good news and incorporate provisions agreed to by DWP, the Committee, and many others in a Settlement Agreement that was put before the Water Board last year (see Summer 1997 *Newsletter*).

The draft decision approves:

- seasonal high flows for Rush, Walker, Parker, and Lee Vining creeks (these flows are still somewhat short of flows recommended by scientists who worked on the original restoration plans)
- reopening of certain abandoned stream channels in Rush Creek to benefit both stream and waterfowl habitat
- extensive monitoring of stream recovery
- annual aerial monitoring of waterfowl and waterfowl habitat.

Most importantly to the Committee, the draft order reinforces the importance of the 6392-foot lake level established by the Water Board in 1994, stating that "by far the most significant restoration of waterfowl habitat in the Mono Basin will occur due to the rising water elevation at Mono Lake and restoration of flows in the tributary streams as required by Decision 1631."


The Water Board did not include the Mill Creek restoration proposal in its draft decision. It deemed the proposal to be outside the scope of the restoration

proceeding, since pursuit of the proposal would involve several land management agencies and changes to established water rights. The Water Board also cited opposition to the proposal by many Mono Basin residents.

The Committee was disappointed. Mill Creek offers an outstanding opportunity to bring back a thriving riparian and deltaic wetland system to the Mono Basin. We believe it could be rewatered without sacrificing other resource areas, through carefully managing water and implementing water efficiencies. But it was difficult to convince members of the Mono Basin community that the Mono Basin landscape—particularly its historic ranch meadows—would not change drastically.

In setting aside Mill Creek, the Water Board focused its attention instead on restoring waterfowl habitat at County Ponds, natural depressions which lie downslope of the north shore's DeChambeau Ranch and which will be relatively close to Mono Lake once it reaches its target lake level. Rewatering County Ponds was an element in the Settlement Agreement's restoration plan, but considered of secondary importance to restoring Mill Creek. (Historically, and in the Water Board's draft order, Mill Creek is the source of the water used to fill the ponds.) The County Ponds proposal was advocated by the Mono Basin residents who opposed rewatering Mill Creek at the expense of Wilson Creek.

At press time, we are evaluating the finer points of the Water Board's draft decision in preparation for the September 2 hearing. If no party appeals the decision—the Committee does not expect to—we could have the final order as early as October. We'll keep you informed.

Heidi Hopkins is the Committee's Eastern Sierra Policy Director and excellence advocate. 

Water conservation statewide is insurance for Mono Lake

by Frances Spivy-Weber

California's water needs are met by an intricate array of aqueducts and dams, local water programs, and imported water supplies. As we've seen at Mono Lake, these complex waterworks often cause environmental destruction.

In the spotlight recently are the serious environmental problems happening where the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta meets the San Francisco Bay. While many miles away from Mono Lake, the troubles of the Bay-Delta can be eased by the same wise water uses that helped protect Mono—water conservation and water recycling. At the same time, solutions to the state's pressing water problems will help avert future demands for additional Mono

Basin water.

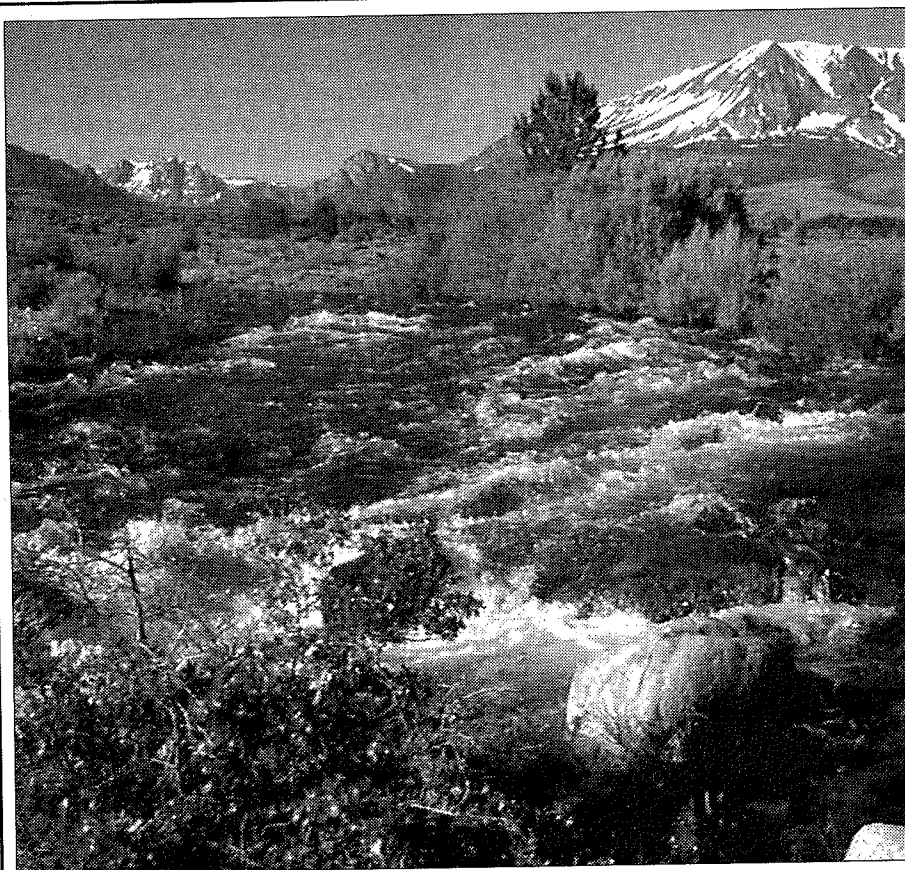
The crux of the conflict now at hand in the Bay-Delta is how to protect the nearly 700-mile region, which provides over 70,000 acres of wetlands and is home to over 120 species of fish and wildlife, while meeting the needs of urban and agricultural water users.

Currently, pumping plants in the Bay-Delta transfer millions of acre-feet of water into the California Aqueduct and Central Valley Project canals. Over 20 million Californians get their drinking water from this system. Over four million acres of farmland are irrigated. And the natural flow of water in the Bay-Delta is reversed, killing millions of fish and decimating California's most

important wetland.

The need for a solution to the Bay-Delta problem has been the source of decades of contentious fighting. In 1994 state and federal agencies with management and regulatory responsibilities in the Bay-Delta came together to seek agreement on water quality standards for the region. Calling themselves CalFed, these agencies launched the CalFed Bay-Delta Program in June 1995 to seek a long-term solution to the management of the entire Bay-Delta. The agencies planned for a consensus-based process that would include all major stakeholders as well as the public.

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Creeks flow high:

A large winter snowpack combined with hot July weather to raise Sierra reservoirs to the spilling point and send high flows rushing down Mono Basin streams. The high flows were aided by good communication between the reservoir operators—the LA Department of Water and Power and Edison—who to a certain degree can coordinate the timing of releases to maximize flows downstream.

Seasonal peak flows not only raise Mono Lake, but also provide the dynamic energy needed to restore pools, riffles, and meander bends in the streams. They help willows and cottonwoods establish themselves along the banks, which in turn capture sediment and rebuild stream banks.

High flows during the early summer snowmelt period are considered by scientists to be one of the most important mechanisms for restoring the stream habitats and processes that were eliminated by DWP's 50 years of water diversions.

Photo by Key Orden

Action alert brings results but

Mono Basin air quality still an issue

by Frances Spivy-Weber

Thanks to each of you who wrote in response to the Committee's summer appeal, David Freeman, General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP), responded to our concerns immediately.

He assures the Mono Lake Committee that the Department has no intention of seeking any change to the Water Board decision at this time; and he requested we meet in September to develop a plan for regular communication on restoration and other issues of mutual interest.

Thank you, Mr. Freeman.

The issue of Mono Basin's air quality designation, however, is not over.

Background

The 1994 Water Board decision to protect the public trust in the Mono Basin is not a law. It is a decision based on a lengthy hearing about the complex environmental concerns of many organizations and agencies.

The Mono Lake Committee, National Audubon Society, California Trout, and others did not undertake their challenge to Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's water rights lightly. Nor should they or anyone else do so in the future. But if any party decides to petition the Water Board to change any aspect of the 1994 decision, they have every right to do so. And we have learned that we must be alert to this possibility at any time.

Department of Water and Power

In October 1997 Mono Lake Committee members were surprised to hear DWP's lead counsel for the Water Board hearings express the sentiment that Los Angeles might ask the State Water Board to modify the decision. Our surprise was followed with dismay when we learned that DWP staff wrote to the California Air Resources Board May 28, 1998—with copies to Los Angeles City Hall, US Environment Protection Agency, and Great Basin Unified Air Pollution

Control District—stating that it “would like to work towards having the [Mono Basin] area re-designated as an attainment area.” Such a redesignation would undermine the air quality reasons for raising Mono Lake, and this is the first step we have seen DWP take towards building a case for modifying the 1994 Water Board decision.

As you may remember, the Water Board set a restoration target level for Mono Lake of 6392 feet above sea level based on several factors. One of the factors was the need to comply with the Clean Air Act by limiting dust storms from Mono's exposed lakebed. Other reasons included restoring stream and waterfowl habitats in the Mono Basin, inundating the landbridge to the gull nesting sites, reducing the lake's salinity to protect the ecosystem, and keeping the tufa formations visible.

Since 1994, the lake has risen ten feet to an elevation of 6384. And many of the changes sought by the Water Board are beginning to occur. Air quality has improved in the Mono Basin. The streambanks are sporting new cottonwood and willow saplings. Trout are returning to the streams. The landbridge is now known as Gaines Island.

We learned about DWP's May 28 letter late in June. We also learned that Great Basin produced a “Reasonable Further Progress Report for the Mono Basin” in response to the letter. It concluded a redesignation was premature.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power countered with criticism of both Great Basin's monitoring program and its proposals to establish additional monitoring sites.

Meanwhile the State Air Resources Board went forward in July to publish a list of areas in California it recommends that the EPA designate as being “in attainment” under the new Clean Air Act. Consistent with DWP's request, the

state's list includes the Mono Basin. So the Mono Basin will receive an evaluation by EPA Region 9 along with the Coachella Valley, Mammoth Lakes, Sacramento and San Bernardino Counties, and parts of Searles Valley. EPA can agree with the State recommendations or wait to make final designations in 2000, based on monitoring data from 1997 to 1999.

Mono Basin impacts

Mono Lake Committee members and staff have received a wake-up call. The points on which the Water Board based its decision can be challenged prematurely. The Mono Basin is not “in attainment” of Clean Air standards. Significant progress—exactly what was predicted with a rising lake level—is being made, notably at Simis Ranch. However dust plumes continue to rise from areas not yet covered by water. There are ample photographs of the plumes taken this spring.

The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District proposes to focus its monitoring on the remaining problem areas. We must get real answers to the questions, not guesses or wishful thinking. The Committee must redouble its efforts to stay abreast of what all the agencies and groups concerned with Mono Lake and the Mono Basin are doing.

In this air quality case, we are working with the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, EPA Region 9, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's new general manager, David Freeman. Our goal is to see that air quality in the Mono Basin and other issues affecting the 1994 Water Board decision are discussed openly, accurately, and in a timely way with all the parties. It is in all our interests to have no surprises. ☞

Mono Lake involved in new international lake partnership

by Frances Spivy-Weber

In June, the Mono Lake Committee and the German Global Nature Fund announced the launch of an international network of lake organizations aimed at promoting sustainable development to protect threatened lakes. The organization, called Living Lakes, will facilitate communication among lake protection organizations.

The Living Lakes partnership has been selected as a worldwide project for EXPO 2000, which will be held in Hannover, Germany. A Living Lakes exhibit at the exposition will focus on the importance of protecting lakes around the world. Major funding for the initiative is being provided by Unilever Corporation, and any significant Mono Lake Committee expenses in the project will be covered by related grants.

The partnership was inaugurated with five member lakes: Mono Lake, the Bodensee (Lake Constance) in Germany, Lake St. Lucia in South Africa, La Nava


in Spain, and Nestos Lakes in Greece. Lake Biwa in Japan is a candidate lake, and there may be as many as twenty lakes in the group by the year 2000.

The Mono Lake Committee and the Global Nature Fund hosted a press conference at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to announce the partnership. Ed Manning, co-chair of the Mono Lake Committee Board, steered the press event. Speakers included actress Stefanie Powers; Marc Del Piero, member of the State Water Resources Control Board; Sue Meeson of Unilever Corporation; Dr. Gerhard Thielcke, President of the Global Nature Fund; Dr. Berend Harnagel, head of the



Photo by Kay Ogden

Worldwide Projects, EXPO 2000; and representatives of the founding lakes.

The Mono Lake Committee's role in the partnership will be primarily to assist with the development of a Web site and Internet communications among the lake partners and their supporters. Visit www.livinglakes.com later in the fall to watch the progress of this new venture. 

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Sharing Mono's lessons

Martha Davis, former executive director and current board member of the Mono Lake Committee, works with the Bay-Delta Advisory Committee and helps the Mono Lake Committee weigh in on the CalFed process, particularly in support of wiser, more efficient policies governing the use of water statewide.


Many Californians do not realize that the success of Mono Lake's protection—achieved without significant water losses to Los Angeles—can be repeated elsewhere in the state. California has enough water to meet both the needs of the economy and nature, now and in the future.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and other water districts,

particularly in Southern California, are beginning to acknowledge this fact. Over the last few years DWP has committed staff and funds for conservation, water recycling, and groundwater management. The results are impressive. In Los Angeles, despite a population increase of one million people, residents are using water at levels seen in the 1970s. The Mono Lake Committee helped raise federal and state funds for some of LA's environmentally sound water supply programs, more than offsetting the water now committed to the protection and restoration of the Mono Basin ecosystem.

The CalFed process is expected to produce a plan by December 1998 outlining the next steps the federal and state governments will take to restore the Bay-Delta ecosystem—and to manage

the water supply coming from this ecosystem. The Mono Lake Committee will be posting information on the Internet at www.monolake.org as the recommendations unfold. Your help will be needed to steer this recommendation in a direction that will ensure people and the environment have fair shares of California's water.

Frances Spivy-Weber is the Mono Lake Committee's Executive Director. She's proud of her composting success. 

Mono Basin updates

Conway Ranch

Mono County is still struggling to come up with sufficient funds to purchase Conway Ranch, the historic ranch whose meadows spread out below the northern entrance into the Mono Basin. To date, the County has raised over a million dollars in open space grant funds. These funds, however, must be matched by non-federal dollars and the need for this additional money is limiting the County's ability to purchase the land.

In July, the County formally requested Bureau of Land Management assistance in purchasing the ranch. The BLM, through a recent land exchange, is in a position to acquire a \$500,000 portion of the property.

As we reported in the last issue of the *Newsletter*, the current landowner is the nonprofit Trust for Public Land (TPL) which acquired the historic ranch from its private owners. Now TPL simply is waiting to transfer the property to Mono County—or to the BLM should that be necessary.

Sailboat mooring raises issues about boating on Mono Lake

There are no general prohibitions on boating at Mono Lake, although the islands and a few tufa towers on which osprey nest are restricted during parts of the year. Still, few boats ply Mono's waters. They are deterred in part by the lake's extreme salinity and alkalinity, both of which are hard on motors and equipment, and by the capricious and powerful winds that frequently arise in the afternoons. Commercial operations are allowed, but must operate under a permit. (The Mono Lake Committee operates its weekend canoe program under a permit.) Similarly, mooring or other "permanent" uses also require a permit.

A Mono Basin resident has requested permission to moor his boat near the newly renovated Tioga Lodge, two miles north of Lee Vining near Highway 395. The request to moor a boat on Mono Lake is nothing new; for the last two summers, he has had a permit to moor his boat on the southwest side of the lake. But the proposed location for this summer's mooring is new—and highly visible to travelers along Highway 395.

The Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, which has permitting authority, has decided to grant a permit for this change in mooring for one year.

Although there is only limited boat use on Mono Lake today, the recent request underscores that it may be only a matter of time before the rising lake draws more boating interest. Occasional boating is a historic use of Mono Lake, but should future use outpace historic use—what then? If and when these questions arise, the Committee will urge the state to give the public an opportunity to comment. For our part, we will look closely at the potential impacts on wildlife and on Scenic Area values, such as the experience of solitude. And we'll keep you informed.

Lee Vining Community Center

The community of Lee Vining is closer to getting its own Community Center, with the announcement that Mono County received approval of its application for federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The Mono County Board of Supervisors has set aside \$150,000 over the past several years for the project, since Lee Vining is the only Mono County community without a community center. With \$206,000 of additional CDBG funds, the process of design, bidding, and construction can now move forward. The goal set by the Community Center Committee is

to finalize a design this winter and to start construction in the spring. The Community Center will be built across the street from Hess Park.

Restoring the Public Trust exhibit

The Water Resources Center Archives, recipient of the Mono Lake Committee's historical papers, will be presenting an exhibit titled "Restoring the Public Trust: a History of Mono Lake in the 20th Century" at the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center. The exhibit features historical photographs and documents highlighting the story of the diversions, key legal decisions, and restoration of the lake. This small and unique exhibit will be on display at the Visitor Center during the month of September.

Community garden blooms

A former asphalt expanse is now the site of a successful school and community garden project in Lee Vining. Located to the south of the High School, the plot has been planted with nitrogen fixing cover crops as well as already plentiful vegetables such as snap peas, broccoli, squash, and lettuce.

The project, headed by former Committee staffer Ilene Mandelbaum, uses principles of sustainable agriculture—including water conserving techniques—to provide food and education.

Nibblers and gardeners are welcome to visit the site, says Mandelbaum, and volunteers will happily be put to work. Ideas for crops, techniques, and funding are also welcome; contact Ilene at (760) 647-6644 or via email at monogreens@aol.com.

Mono Basin Journal

A roundup of less political events at Mono Lake

by Geoffrey McQuilkin

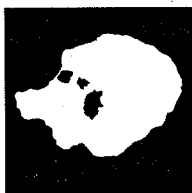
Turkey vultures soared on the air currents reflecting upward from Reversed Peak one warm summer day, their dark but translucent wings making wobbly Vs against the blue sky.

As the heat of summer's long days built up thunderclouds over the Mono Basin, thoughts in the office turned to swimming, and ideas swiftly became actions. The lake's salty waters a



welcoming cool embrace, you float at eye level to the surface, looking to the islands, imagining the lake rising.

Gazing up at the mountain slopes, the soft glow of light slanting through mountain mahogany seeds has returned. Their corkscrew forms spiral through the warm afternoon air, diving seed-first into the ground, blowing into drifts like the snows soon to come. ☞



Lakewatch

Rush Creek given highest flow since 1995

by Greg Reis

Winter stayed late this spring, and the water content of the snow pack on May 25 was almost at 1982-83 levels. The cool, showery weather continued until spring showed its belated face in mid-June—just in time to disappear into summer. This prevented Tioga Pass from opening until July 1, a tie for the third-latest opening in history.

The unseasonably cold weather kept the snow from melting and the creeks low through mid-June, but when it finally warmed up the snow melted rapidly and Mono Basin creeks swelled with runoff. Lee Vining Creek peaked in early July at about 450 cfs, and Rush Creek peaked at about 500 cfs in mid-July—the highest since 1995's 630 cfs peak, thanks to cooperation between Edison and DWP in their reservoir releases. Below the Narrows, Rush Creek surpassed 600 cfs, which caused substantial channel move-

ment in certain areas. Mill Creek threatened the Cemetery Road crossing as it reached the culvert tops. The waterfalls on all of the streams were impressive throughout July.

The Mono Lake Committee helped monitor the effects of the high flows on the streams by taking photos and looking for indicators of channel movement. Crossing the engorged stream channels was challenging, but once across we could see the flooding, sediment deposition, and high water table of areas such as recently rewatered Channel 10 on Rush Creek. Areas along Rush Creek where we planted pine seedlings last year were under water or at the water's edge—areas where we once had to carry buckets of water tens of feet to water the thirsty trees.

All of this water flowed into Mono Lake, causing it to rise rapidly: three-quarters of a foot in July, at the rate of

two inches per week, and one quarter-inch per day. This kept the rangers at South Tufa busy re-routing trails as the lake covered up the old ones, causing confusion on tours when the guides would occasionally get lost! At County Park, the boardwalk now ends in the willows just past the bridge.

The July 23 level of Mono Lake was 6,384.2, the highest since 1972. It is reaching a new lake-level gauge with a zero elevation of 6,383.9 feet above sea level. With average precipitation this winter, the April 1, 1999 elevation of Mono Lake is forecasted to be 6,384.6, exactly 10 vertical feet higher than it was in 1994 at the time of the Water Board decision—with seven more feet to go!

Greg Reis, the Committee's Canoe Coordinator, knows the Lee Vining 7.5' quad in detail. ☞



Benchmark tufa, 1997. Lake level 6381.7 feet, 35 feet below its prediversion level.



Benchmark tufa, 1998. Lake level 6384.2 feet. Photo by Arya Degenhardt When Mono Lake reaches its management level, these tufa towers will once again protrude from the lake's surface

Benchmarks

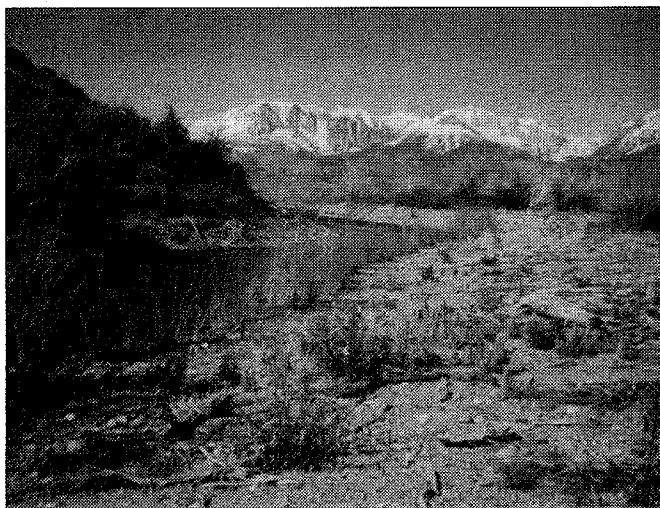


Photo by Greg Reis

Channel 10 on Rush Creek, May 1997. The channel was rewatered in late 1995 and planted with trees in the spring of 1996.

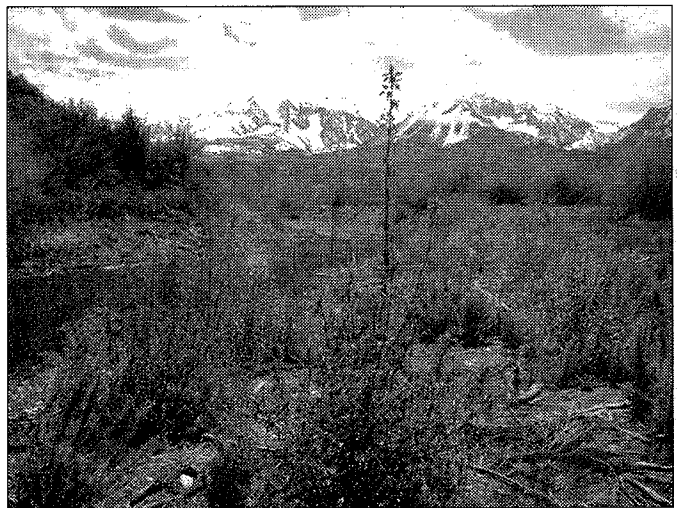


Photo by Arya Degenhardt

Channel 10 in 1998. Planted vegetation is well established, yet a full forest is years away.

Naturalist notes

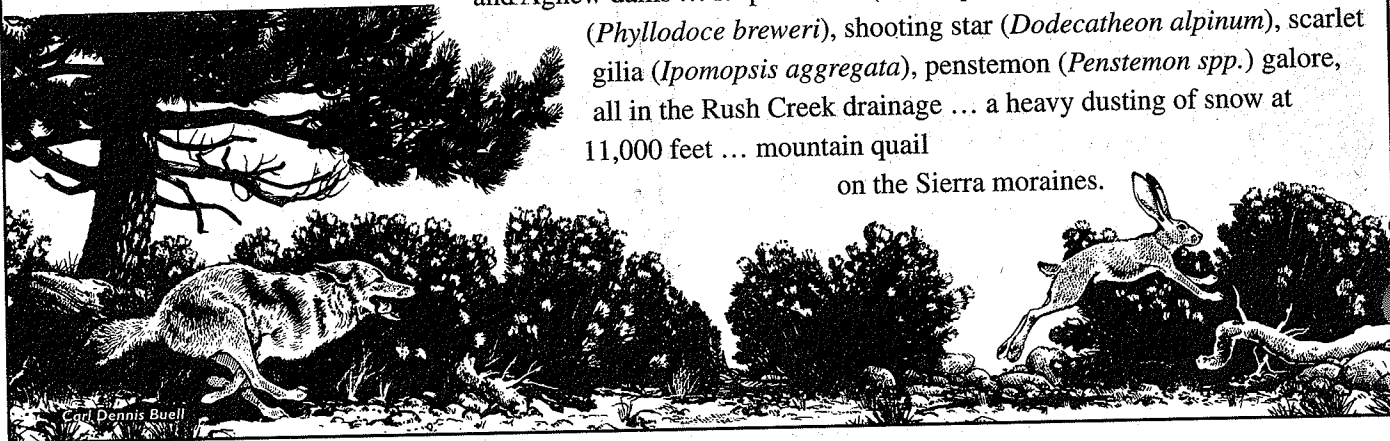
A Mono Basin chronicle



Late May: Western fence lizards in the Cowtrack Mountains ... Bald eagle soaring over June Lake ... birds everywhere at County Park, 43 species sighted including five swallow species, a warbling vireo, Wilson's warblers, a sora, California quail, and a black-headed grosbeak ... pair of American kestrels surveying Lee Vining Creek ... white-crowned sparrow, violet-green swallows ... western kingbirds at South Tufa, along with a Wilson's warbler ... phalaropes cruising at County Park ... 15 Bonaparte's gulls and two Caspian terns at DeChambeau Ponds ... a thick chorus of spadefoot toads on the north shore at dusk ... north shore sighting of a yellow-breasted chat and a willow flycatcher ... a cattle egret at County Park ... out on Mono Lake, a black tern ... three golden eagles overhead ... desert peach (*Purshia tridentata*) blossoms beginning to peak ... a few *mimulus* at Black Point.

June: Warm weather finally here, now and then ... no-see-ums plentiful ... two ravens perched atop Mt. Dana ... a solid trail of ants, one inch wide, all crossing the road, destination unknown ... parent and baby gopher snake ... jackrabbits and cottontails ... a sizable summer tanager at County Park ... out in the Jeffrey Pine forest, Lewis's woodpeckers, pinon jays, Clark's nutcrackers, a white-breasted nuthatch, and four long-eared owls ... ocean of lupine blooming amidst a sea of sagebrush ... cedar waxwings passing through town ... western wallflower (*Erysimum occidentale*) blooming ... a belted kingfisher and an American dipper at Mill Creek ... creeks rising with snowmelt ... spadefoot toad eggs in shallow puddles ... tent caterpillars covering bitterbrush in some areas ... long-billed curlews at South Tufa ... a white-tailed ptarmigan up in the Warren Fork ... a black tern at Bridgeport Creek ... orange-crowned warbler carrying food ... a shooting star ceremony ... three great horned owl fledglings at South Tufa ... night camping sounds: great horned owls, northern pygmy owls, and a flammulated owl (?) ... a surprising Philadelphia vireo sighting.

July: An eastern wood pewee, perhaps the first sighted in the county ... a varied thrush ... sky pilot (*Polemonium eximium*) on the high peaks ... white-tailed ptarmigan on the Dana plateau ... mule deer on Negit Island, bats too ... two magnificent frigatebirds sighted by gull researchers ... greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) beginning to flower ... long-tailed weasel at South Tufa ... longhorn steershead (*Dicentra uniflora*) in the basin ... red-naped sapsucker ... Wilson's phalaropes counted in the hundreds ... rufous hummingbirds ... Rush Creek spilling over Gem and Agnew dams ... leopard lilies (*Lilium pardalinum*), mountain heather (*Phyllodoce breweri*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon alpinum*), scarlet gilia (*Ipomopsis aggregata*), penstemon (*Penstemon spp.*) galore, all in the Rush Creek drainage ... a heavy dusting of snow at 11,000 feet ... mountain quail on the Sierra moraines.



THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE'S

Mono Lake Catalog

1998-1999

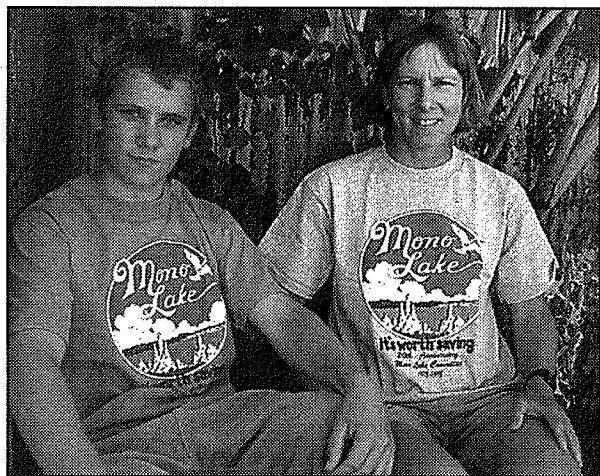
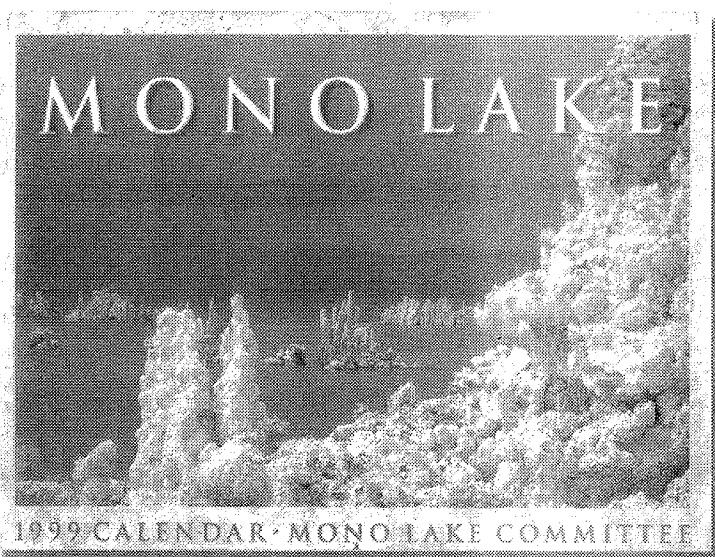
SPECIAL PRICE!

1999 MONO LAKE CALENDAR

Capture the spirit of the Mono Basin with this full color calendar for 1999! Featuring photographs by Larry Ulrich, Jim Stimson, Dennis Flaherty, and more, this 12-month calendar makes the Mono Basin a part of any home or office. Perfect for holiday gifts too.

Use our special gift mailing program—see page 20!
Measures 13¹/₄" x 9³/₄".

\$9.95 (Item #1201). Quantity discounts:
2-4, \$8.95 each; 5-10, \$7.95 each;
11 or more, \$6.95 each;
Rigid mailers: \$1.00 each (Item #2005).



20TH ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRT

Sage and Sally Gaines know that Mono Lake is worth saving! We've brought back this original T-shirt design for our 20th anniversary. It's a favorite of past, present, and future Monophiles.

Short sleeve in blue, sage, ash, or grey, S-XXL: \$15.00 (Item #215)

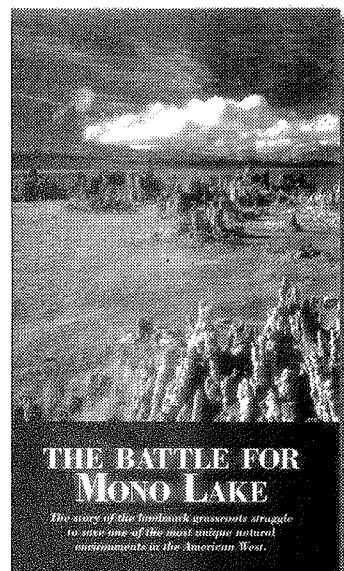
Long sleeve in blue, sage, ash, or grey, S-XXL: \$20.00 (Item #216)

VIDEO: THE BATTLE FOR MONO LAKE

A Stephen Fisher Production in association with KTEH, San Jose, *The Battle for Mono Lake* is the first documentary

to fully explore the history of the effort to save this remarkable place. Hosted by Richard Hatch, the show includes interviews with Sally Gaines, DWP staff, and other key players, as well as remarkable Mono Lake scenics.

57 minutes, VHS: \$19.95
(Item #120)



THE MONO LAKE CATALOG



PURPLE CONEFLOWER AND INDIAN PAINTBRUSH TEES

Interns and botany buffs Anna Christensen and Jodi Jensen are wearing our two new Mono Basin flower shirts. These comfortable women's crop T-shirts are printed with elegant images of these two beautiful flowers.

Purple Coneflower, stone, S-XL: \$18.00 (Item #211)

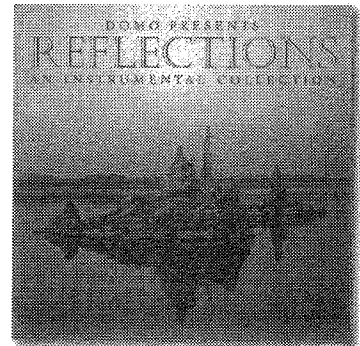
Indian Paintbrush, white, S-XL: \$18.00 (Item #210)

REFLECTIONS

An international medley of unique musical expression from Spanish guitar to piano melodies. Both the music and the print of Mono Lake on the cover evoke memories of the Mono Basin.

Cassette: \$9.98 (Item #1002)

CD: \$15.98 (Item #1001)



BIRDHOUSES

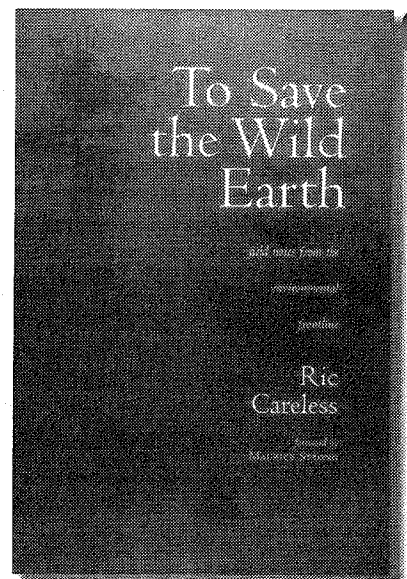
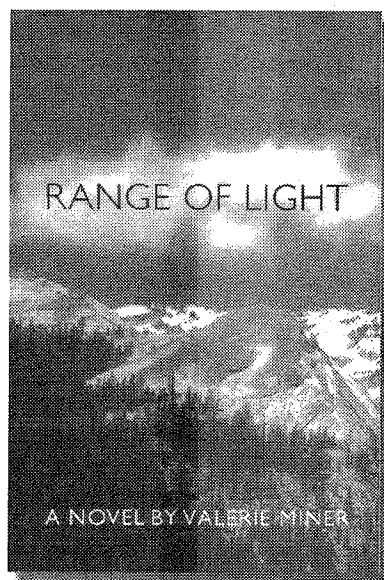
These unique and useful crafts are built by local artists Lauren Porter and Bonnie Noles. Each birdhouse is made of scrap metal and wood from the Mono Basin. A perfect gift for birds and bird lovers.

Each birdhouse is unique, please call for specific styles: \$35.00 (Item #504)

RANGE OF LIGHT

This drama takes place in our own backyard! About two old friends backpacking in the Tuolumne Meadows and Saddlebag Lake areas, this is a compelling meditation on friendship, intimacy, and forgiveness. By Valerie Miner.

Softcover, Zoland Books, 227 pages: \$14.00 (Item #121)

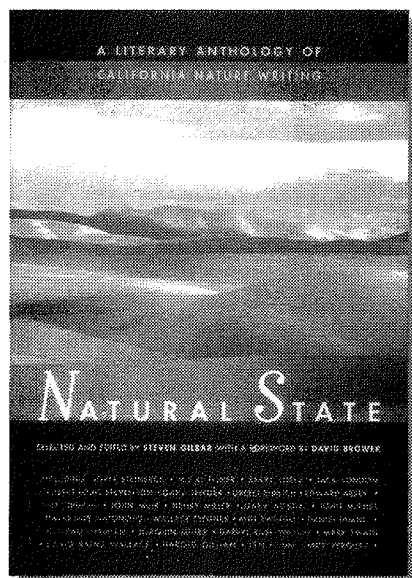


TO SAVE THE WILD EARTH

A behind-the-scenes look at how environmental campaigns are fought and won. This inspiring and authoritative look at environmentalism was written by Ric Careless, a veteran of many campaigns to preserve the Canadian wilderness.

Softcover, The Mountaineers, 240 pages: \$15.95 (Item #116)

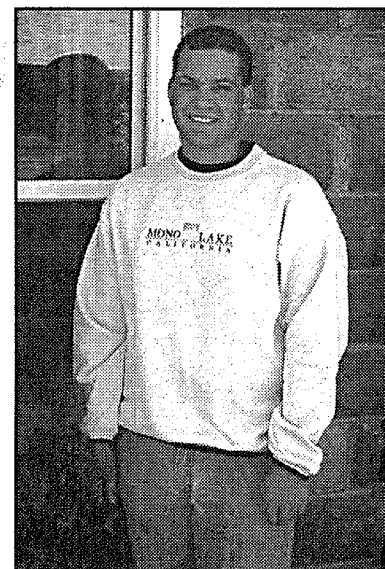
THE MONO LAKE CATALOG



NATURAL STATE

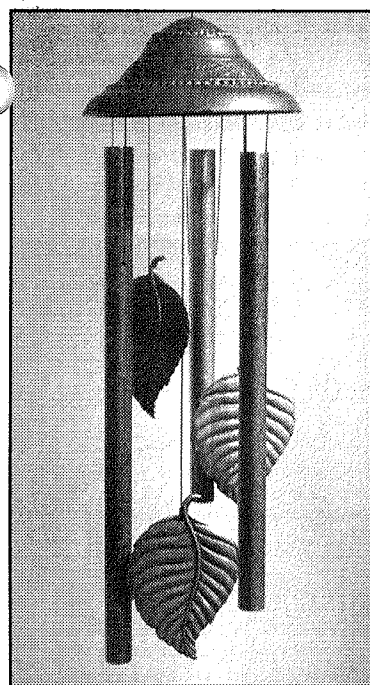
This fine anthology of California nature writing collects more than a century of essays, fiction, and excerpts from longer works. It will transport you into the out-of-doors whether you are a hiker, naturalist, or an armchair explorer. Includes diverse authors such as Harold Gilliam, Wallace Stegner, Jack Kerouac, and Joan Didion. Selected and edited by Steven Gilbar with a foreword by David Brower.

Softcover, UC Press, 378 pages: \$15.95 (Item #122)



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE SWEATSHIRT

Intern Bill Lickiss models our new sweatshirt in front of the intern house! Perfect for fall, he'll be comfortable and proud wearing the Committee logo back at Sacramento State. This heavyweight sweatshirt with sweater knit ribbing won't shrink. *MLC logo sweatshirt, light ash, M-XL: \$40.00 (Item #202)*



MELODIOUS WINDCHIMES

Made of "statesmetal," these chimes won't chip, crack, or break as they make beautiful sounds in the wind. Chimes come in four fun designs: Leaves (pictured), Hummingbirds, Frogs, and Dragonflies. Each measures 6" x 18", by Carson Industries.

All styles: \$49.00 (Item #505)

PICTURE FRAMES AND OIL LAMPS

These nature motif picture frames and oil lamps are decorated with imprints from leaves. Both frames and lamps by United Designs.

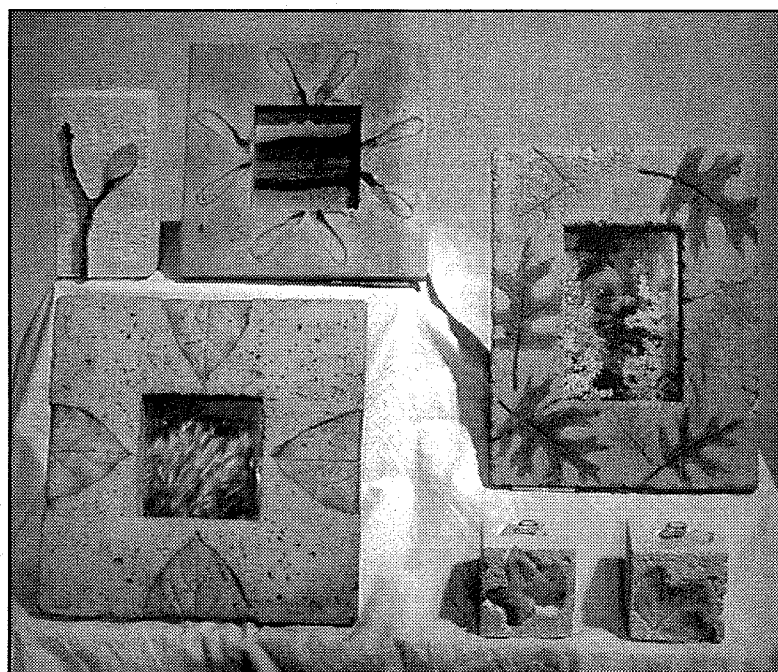
Whirly Bird frame (top): \$21.00 (Item #506)

Oak Impressions frame (right): \$27.00 (Item #507)

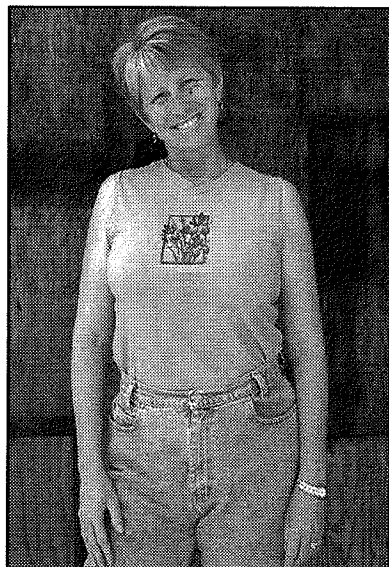
Continuum frame (bottom left): \$28.00 (Item #508)

Leaf Impression Oil Lamp: \$12.00 (Item #509)

Au Naturel Spring Oil Lamp: \$20.00 (Item #510)



THE MONO LAKE CATALOG



IRIS ON IRIS

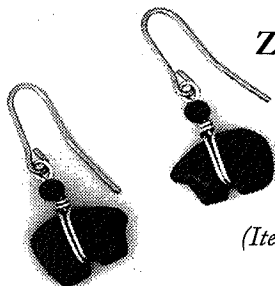
Bookstore Manager Laura Walker models our iris-colored sleeveless V-neck with an iris print on the front.

Sleeveless V-neck, in iris, S-L: \$17.50 (Item #201)



THE MOON ON THE TURTLE'S BACK

This Trisha Waldron design was inspired by Native American tales of the turtle. These turtle earrings come in gold or silver with a turquoise or amber "moon." Select from turquoise or amber center stone, gold or silver: \$14.50 (Item #304)



ZUNI BEAR EARRINGS

Inspired by a Zuni story in which children save their people by turning a bear to stone while allowing the heart of the bear to live on inside. Silver ear wire with hematite fetish.

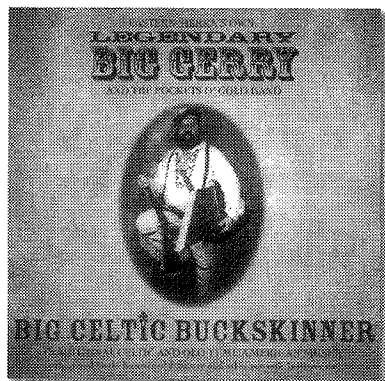
Zuni Bear Earrings, silver and hematite: \$12.50 (Item #303)

LEGENDARY BIG GERRY!

The Eastern Sierran Big Gerry and his Pockets O' Gold Band perform traditional Celtic and "old tyme" American music on the hammered dulcimer and other acoustic instruments. This upbeat music will make you want to dance!

Cassette: \$9.98 (Item #1004)

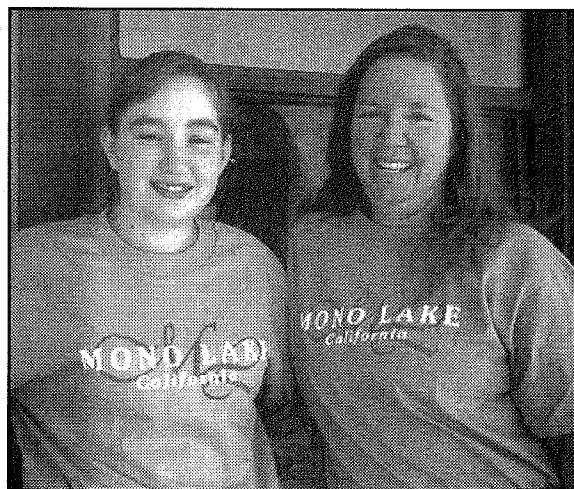
CD: \$15.98 (Item #1003)



MLC LOGO DENIM SHIRT

Bill is modeling our new MLC logo denim shirt. This 100% cotton, button-down shirt is one of Bill's favorites. The MLC logo is embroidered above the pocket.

Denim shirt, M-XXL: \$36.00 (Item #201)

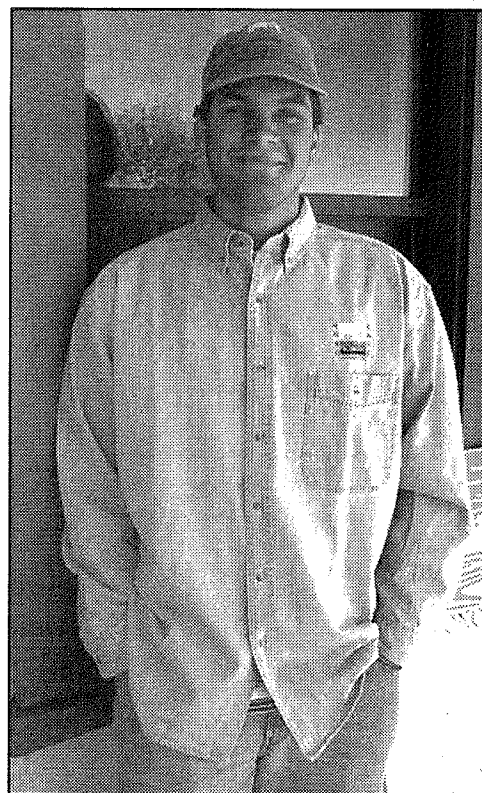


MONO LAKE CLASSIC

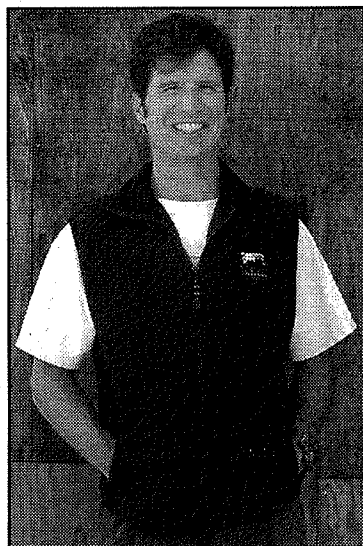
Financial wizard Kathi Richards and her speedy assistant Michelle Mealey have taken their heads out of the books to model our Mono Lake Classic T-shirt. This elegant design comes with both long or short sleeves.

Long sleeved, in blue or sage: \$20 (Item #209)

Short sleeved, in blue or sage: \$15 (Item #208)



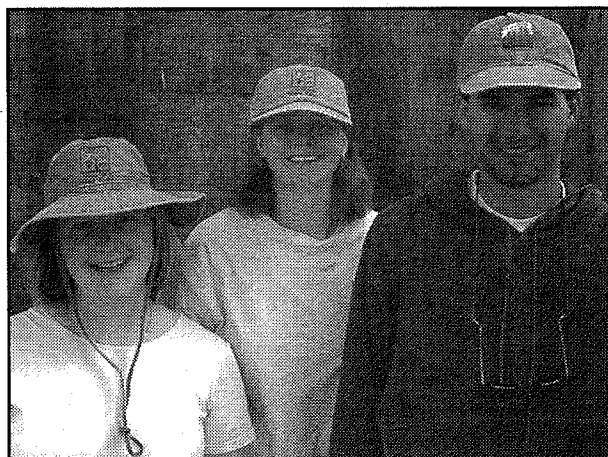
THE MONO LAKE CATALOG



FLEECE VEST

Information Center Assistant and veteran Intern Kevin Hepburn sports our new Committee logo embroidered fleece vest. Perfect for any time of the year, this soft and fuzzy navy blue vest zips down the front and has two side zip pockets.

Navy blue fleece vest, S-XXL: \$49.00 (Item #207)



HATS AND CAPS!

Canoe Coordinator Greg Reis and these two members of the Mono Lake Committee Canoe Fleet know how important sun protection is! Anna is wearing the new Outback style hat. Jodi and Greg are wearing our always popular adjustable-back caps. All designs are embroidered in color.

Outback hat, in navy or sage, Mono Lake scenery or columbine design, M-XL: \$20.00 (Item #221)

Baseball cap, lupine or columbine design, in terra cotta or amethyst, one size fits all: \$13.00 (Item #223)

Baseball cap, MLC Logo, in sage, navy blue, or gray, one size fits all: \$15.00 (Item #220)

MYTHIC DREAMER

A collection of new and traditional melodies performed by the well-known and respected R. Carlos Nakai. Nakai artfully demonstrates the haunting simplicity and evocative magic of the traditional flute.

Cassette: \$9.98 (Item #2552)

CD: \$15.98 (Item #2502)



WILLIAM SPEAR PINS

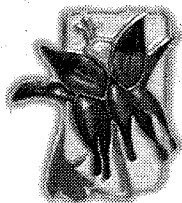
These four pins are perfect stocking stuffers or holiday gifts. Each gold plated pin is enameled by hand and individually fired. One of these designs is sure to spice up your shirt, coat, or hat! Pins measure 1"x 3/4".

Wild iris: \$16.00 (Item #305)

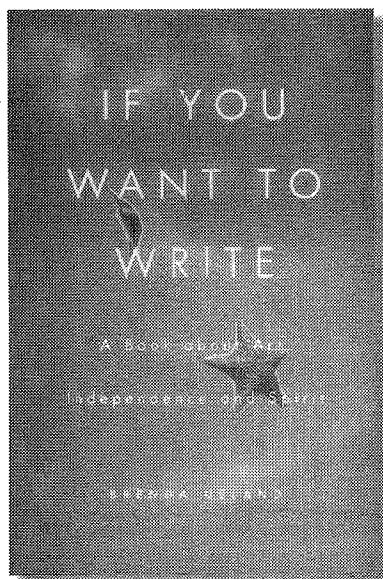
Columbine: \$12.00 (Item #306)

Gecko, in green, pink, or purple: \$10.00 (Item #307)

California Quail: \$10.00 (Item #308)



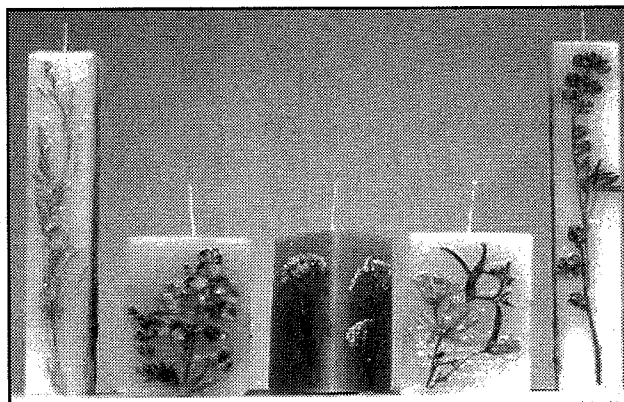
THE MONO LAKE CATALOG



IF YOU WANT TO WRITE

This best-selling classic on the process of writing has inspired thousands to find their creative center. A "book about art, independence, and spirit" by Brenda Ueland.

Softcover, Greywolf Press, 179 pages: \$11.95 (Item #1602)

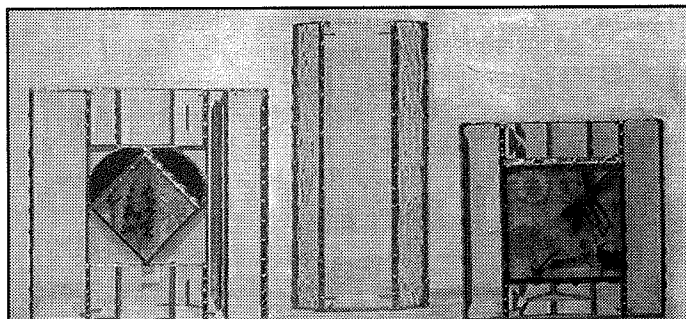


WILDFLOWER CANDLES

Created together by local craftspeople Carolyn Needham and Marylin Lesperance these candles are unique because they are all decorated with pressed Mono Basin wildflowers!

Small triangular candle, 4" x 2½" x 2½": \$10.00 (Item #511)

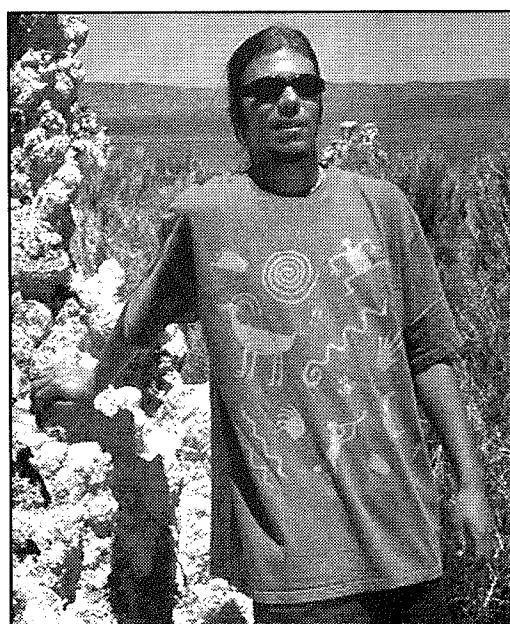
Tall taper candle, 8¾" x 1½" x 1½": \$21.00 (Item #512)



CANDLE HOLDERS

Designed by local artist Marianne Denny, these candle holders cast a beautiful glow. Triangular holders have pressed wildflowers in the glass, and hold one of our triangular candles (above) perfectly. Tall clear holders hold cylindrical candles. A unique gift for any candle lover!

Choose from 5" x 5" triangular or 8" x 3¾" tall holder: \$39.00 (Item #513)

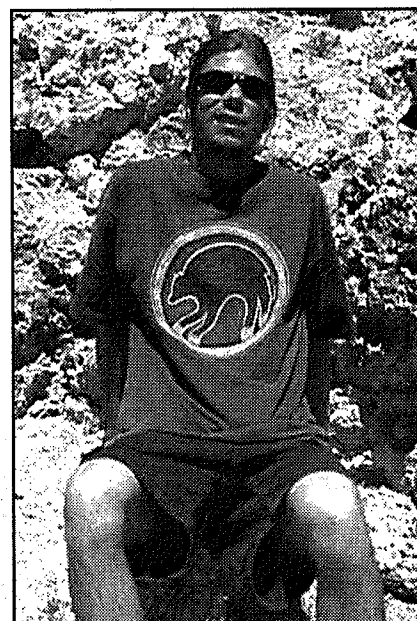


ZUNI BEAR TOTEM AND ROCK ART T-SHIRTS

Intern from Indiana Joe Cosgrove likes to wear these two shirts in the tufa groves! The Rock Art T-shirt shows fun and creative pictographs on the front and back. The Zuni Bear Totem design is inspired by a celebrated Native American tale of the bear.

Zuni Bear Totem, short sleeve, umber, M-XXL: \$20.00 (Item #212)

Rock Art, short sleeve, sage, M-XXL: \$20.00 (Item #213)



THE MONO LAKE CATALOG

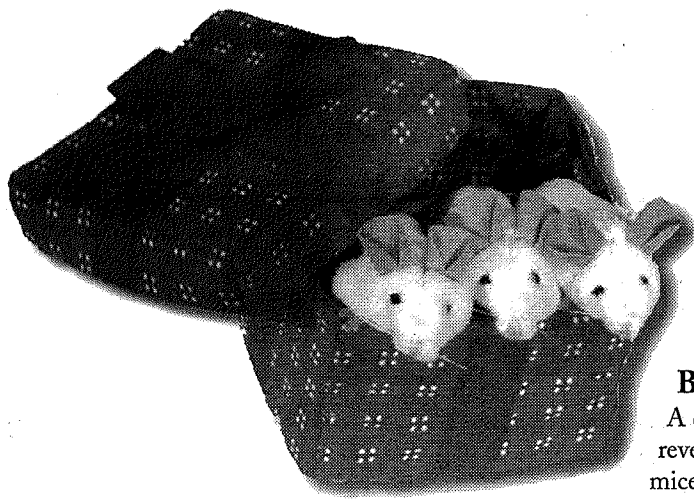
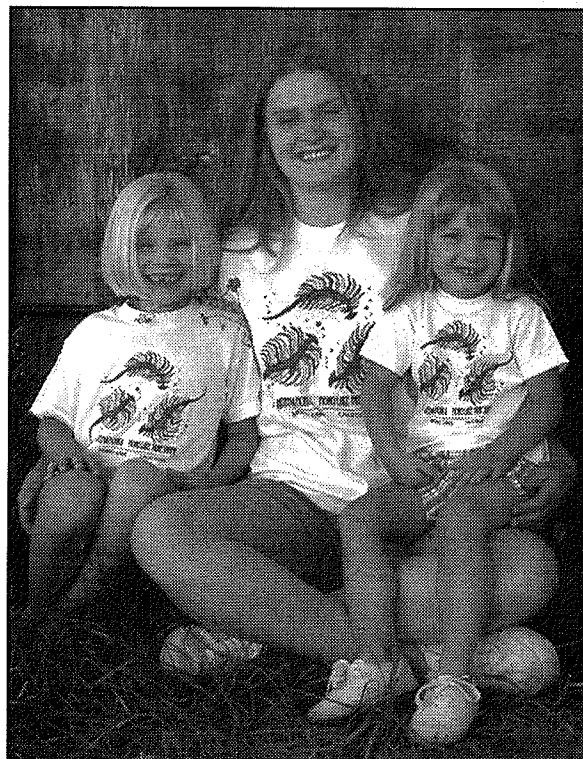
MULTI-COLOR BRINE SHRIMP TEES FOR ADULTS AND KIDS

Shanda and her two daughters, Darcy and Courtney, model this new version of an old favorite. Our classic *Artemia monica* design is back in new, bright colors. With blue, green, yellow, and red legs, brine shrimp swim across this shirt, celebrating Mono's protection.

*Kids sizes, "Shrimp for Mono" design, white shirt,
6 months-2 years: \$8.00 (Item #205)*

Children's sizes, white shirt, S-L: \$10.00 (Item #204)

Adult sizes, white shirt, S-XXL: \$15.00 (Item #203)

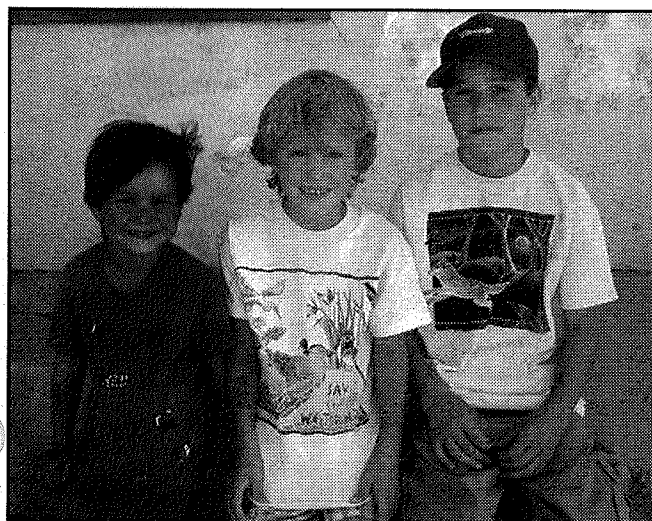


BOX OF MICE

A carefully wrapped gift box opens to reveal three wriggly white mice. The mice are manipulated from beneath the

box and are sure to delight children and adults alike. Red cloth box measures 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

From Folkmanis: \$9.00 (Item #499)



KIDS' T-SHIRTS

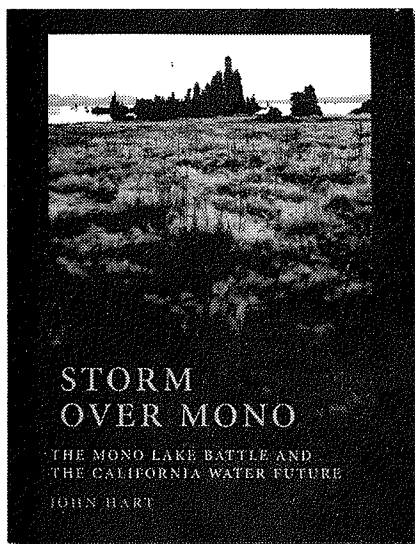
Shane, Skybeaux, and Lundy model our three favorite kids' shirts of the summer: animal pictographs, wild wetland inhabitants with a "Save Our Wetlands" message, and a wolf and raven design.

Pictographs, in slate blue, XS-XL: \$15.00 (Item #295)

Save Our Wetlands, in natural, S-L: \$12.50 (Item #296)

Wolf and Raven, in ash, S-L: \$12.50 (Item #297)

THE MONO LAKE CATALOG



STORM OVER MONO:

THE MONO LAKE BATTLE AND THE CALIFORNIA WATER FUTURE

Winner of the Commonwealth Silver Medal! Author John Hart has produced a thoroughly researched, well balanced, and readable work that covers the history of the Mono Lake controversy and its role in California's water future. Includes profiles of prominent figures and a section of striking color photos.

UC Press, 253 pages plus photos and maps

Softcover: \$29.95 (Item #191)

Hardcover: \$50.00

(Item #190)

SPECIAL HOLIDAY CALENDAR GIFT OFFER !

CALENDARS AS GIFTS

Enjoy holiday shopping the easy way! Share Mono Lake's beauty with your friends, family, and business partners and take the stress out of the holidays! It's easy ... send us your gift list by November 15, and we'll package and send a beautiful 1999 Mono Lake Calendar to each person on your list in time for the holidays! Each calendar is shipped in a special protective mailer and includes a gift notice with your name.

Pricing is simple: \$10.95 per calendar includes the calendar, mailer, gift notice, and shipping (there is an additional charge for international addresses).

Please see calendar description on page 13 for details about the 1999 calendar.



HEDGEHOG PUPPET

The perfect companion to *The Hat*, this cuddly seven-inch tall puppet will become one of your child's best friends.

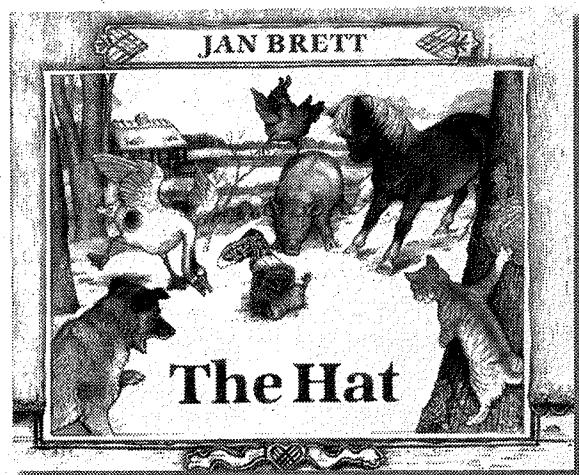
From Folkmanis; puppet's head and legs can be moved from inside, and entire puppet can roll into a ball: \$16.00 (Item #401)

SPECIAL GIFT
OFFER !
HEDGIE AND
THE HAT FOR
ONLY \$30.00

THE HAT

A lost wool sock becomes stuck on Hedgie the Hedgehog's head, starting off this fun journey through a Scandinavian barnyard. Detailed, beautiful drawings set a warm tone for the heartwarming story.

Cloth, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 30 pages: \$16.95 (Item #126)



THE MONO LAKE CATALOG

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(payable to Mono Lake Committee)



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SHIPPING (see chart below)

SUBTOTAL

CA RESIDENTS: ADD 7.25% SALES TAX ON SUBTOTAL (including shipping)

☐ New ☐ Renewal MLC MEMBERSHIP (see attached envelope)

MLC DONATION

TOTAL

Ordering

BY MAIL

Use attached envelope or send to:
Mono Lake Committee
P. O. Box 29
Lee Vining, California 93541

BY PHONE

Call (760) 647-6595
9A.M. to 5P.M., seven days a week

BY FACSIMILE

Fax your order to (760) 647-6377

Shipping

Up to \$10 \$4.00

\$10 - \$25 \$5.00

\$25 - \$50 \$5.50

Over \$50 \$6.00

- Additional mailing addresses: \$4.00.
- California law requires us to charge sales tax on shipping.

Store Profits

All profits from merchandise sales support the Committee's work to protect Mono Lake, restore Mono Basin resources, and provide watershed education programs.

★★ Gift Certificates

Make certain you give exactly what they want! Gift Certificates work just like cash in the Committee's Bookstore—and via mailorder. Or give the gift that keeps on giving: a Committee membership! *Gift Certificates must be redeemed within a year of purchase.* Available in any amount of \$10.00 or more.

Staff migrations

With autumn comes the annual migration of seasonal staff to college classes and winter jobs. Departing in September are Information Center Assistants **Ramona Clark** and **Kevin Hepburn**. Both have spent the summer making the Information Center and Bookstore look great and operate smoothly. Kevin's years of Eastern Sierra experience helped many visitors, and Ramona's always cheerful approach to the front counter made many a visitor's day a little brighter.

Heading back to teaching middle school science is Outdoor Experiences Coordinator **Matt Moule**. A former intern who can't quite get the Mono Basin out of his system, Matt has worked with the OE program for two years, helping LA youth explore the Mono

Basin with excitement. Lead OE Coordinator **Mike Klapp** will also be wrapping up his seasonal responsibilities soon, but he plans to stay on for the winter, working half time on graphics and Web site projects while donating the rest of his time to the exploration of extending the visits made by LA youth groups to allow lengthy backpacking trips.

A farewell goes out to super summer interns **Anna Christensen**, **Jodi Jensen**, **Bill Lickiss**, and **Joe Cosgrove**. After introducing hundreds of visitors to Mono Lake by foot and canoe, they're full-fledged lake advocates themselves. Thanks for a great summer; come back and visit soon. Happily intern **Arya Degenhardt** will be with us into the winter and we're eagerly putting her skills and good cheer to work.

Bookkeeping Assistant **Michelle Mealy** is also heading back to school. She'll be at Humboldt State after a summer (and more) of assisting us with the continual flow of financial paperwork. Thanks, Michelle, for helping us see the desktop again.

And summer Web site volunteer **Erin Ryan** has departed for law school back east where we know she'll be working too hard. Hopefully good luck will be with her and she will have at least a few moments to stop by the beach to look for Atlantic jackknife clams.

Switching roles is Canoe Coordinator **Greg Reis** who, at the end of the month, takes on an as-yet-unnamed job focusing on Web site development and information organization. We're excited to have him staying with us. ☺



Photo by Sarah Taylor

Mono Lake Committee staff, summer 1998

Back (left to right): Greg Reis, Joe Cosgrove, Arya Degenhardt, Geoff McQuilkin, Frances Spivy-Weber, Bartshe Miller, Bill Lickiss. Front: Gary Nelson, Shannon Nelson, Ramona Clark, Laura Walker, Jodi Jensen, Anna Christensen, Heidi Hopkins, Rebecca Doherty, Shelly Backlar, Kathi Richards, Kevin Hepburn. At the AIDS ride instead: Kay Ogden. Working away from the office: Mike Klapp, Matt Moule, Michelle Mealey.

Research at Mono Lake

Mono Lake and the Mono Basin attract scientific researchers interested in a wide range of questions. The last newsletter issue began a list of who is looking at what; here are updates since then. Please let us know (info@monolake.org) about new projects.

Pleistocene lake history through amino acid geochronology studies

Laurent E. Savoy, Steve Roof, Lawrence J. Winship, Hannah Thomas, Mount Holyoke College

Long-term climatic water budget analysis of Bodie, Bridgeport, Mono Lake, and 30 other Sierra sites

Scott Kruse, Fresno Pacific University

Air movement in Lee Vining Canyon

Craig B. Clements, University of Utah

Member Corner: News from the membership desk

by Rebecca Dobert

In memoriam

Condolences go out to former Board member, longtime supporter, and true friend of Mono Lake **Genny Smith** whose husband **Ward** passed away in June. Many other members have chosen to honor his memory with donations. Among them are **Marty and Bart Spencer** of Cupertino, and co-founder **David Gaines'** parents **Mort and Edith** of Los Angeles.

Roger and Nancy Cannon of Carmel sent a gift in memory of **Jim Alexander**. **Carol Sutorius** of Dana Point remembered **Jane Lutz** with a donation.

Scott Spoolman of Madison, Wisconsin, eulogized part time local resident **Ione J. Harmon** as "an avid supporter of Mono Lake." His gift honors her memory.

Rita Russell of North Highlands contributed to our effort in memory of **Caren Hartt**.

From the mailbag

We received this letter from **Jessie Durant**, a local resident and Paiute tribal elder, regarding the Winter 1998 Newsletter:

"I was happy to see reference made to 'Kutzadika'a,' the traditional name of the Paiute people from Mono Lake. In the future it would be wonderful to also acknowledge the original Paiute names of places like Rush Creek ('Whu-gue-te'), the Narrows ('Thu-ba-tze-ga'), and the east side of Mono Lake ('Pa-bee-pa-te'). By recognizing the names that Paiutes gave to these places we can better appreciate the different meanings and uses that people have attached to our local geography—throughout history to the present day."

Special thanks

As part of the recent NORBA bike races in Mammoth Lakes **Patagonia** ran a sales booth, then donated their earnings to the Committee. Thanks to **Steve Morando** for putting in the long hours for us! In addition, **Larry Maser** of Santa Barbara made the Committee the beneficiary of all the profits generated by sales of his silk screened peace signs at the event.

Thanks go out to volunteer **David King** who has kept the Information Center garden in order for us over the summer and even nurtured a few new trees!

As part of our field seminar series, the participants of this year's environmental education class enjoyed a weekend of learning at the Burger's retreat, west of Lee Vining. After class, the students were so moved by retreat owners **Dale and Suzanne Burger's** generosity to them that they passed around the hat, and gave the proceeds to the Committee in their honor. Though the gift was generous, the students felt it was "grossly unbalanced next to the Burgers' kindness and dedication to a place that moves mountains in their hearts." That goes for us, too! Thanks from us to all of you.

Matching gifts

The benefits of the technological age have reached the MLC recently.

Microsoft matched the generous gift we received from **David Sloo**, of **Menlo Park**, while **Sun Microsystems** matched the gift of **David Arana** of **Fremont**.

GC Companies helped to double the contribution of LA member **Paul Rayton**. Thanks to all!

Notes of interest to members

For those of you caught in your homes with the air conditioner—relief is here! The Mono Lake Web site offers an escape to the High Sierra when you can't get here in person.

We are especially pleased to now offer membership online at www.monolake.org. Be sure to check out all the options in the "Join Us" section of the page—join, renew, or commit to a special program like the Guardians of the Lake.

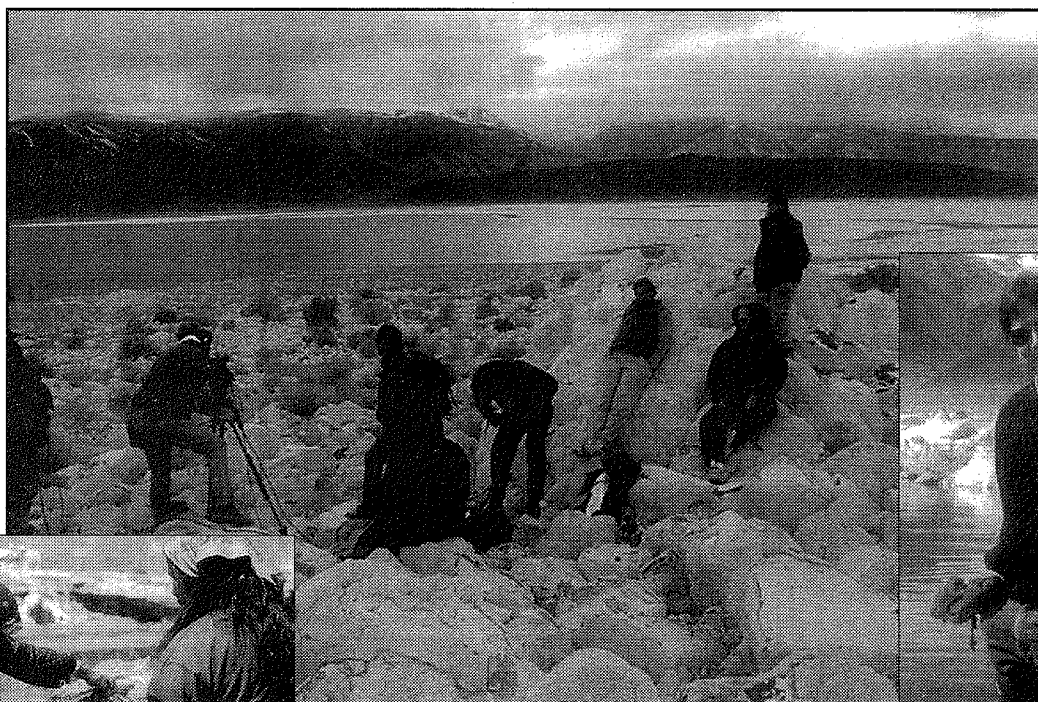
Know someone who would like to be a part of our work, but doesn't know where to begin? Print a copy of our membership form for them! Or let them know they can take a tour of the lake and the issues affecting it. The site has lots of pictures and a section of live information including weather data and a webcam. Find out about current action alerts and write a letter to your local representatives. We want our members to have all the Mono Lake resources available, and now you can reach them from your home.

Lastly, a note for those of you who want to send a donation, but don't have a specific form to send with it. Lost your renewal slip? Can't find that appeal form that came in the mail? Have no fear! Just send your donation to the MLC with a note for me stating which mailing you'd like your donation recorded for. I will be happy to credit your record appropriately.

Rebecca Dobert is the Committee's Membership Coordinator; she's counting cords of wood for the winter.

The Battle for Mono Lake

— now available to PBS stations across the country —



Check with your local station for air dates. Some stations may not be aware of the documentary's availability and your phone call will help convince them to show it. Shelly Backlar (818-716-8488) can help secure a copy of the program for your local station.



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